MONTEREY NEWS

Jan 2001
VOLUME XXXI· Number 1

The Town

Highway Department

As many of you know, Donald Amstead is retiring on June 30, 2001, from his position as Highway Superintendent. A Highway Superintendent Search Committee has been formed, consisting of Stanley Ross, Chairman, Dean Amidon, Gareth Backhaus, Mickey Jervas, and Ray Tryon. The committee is responsible for the search for and screening of applicants. Advertisement for this position will be placed after the first of the year in the *Shoppers' Guide,* the *Berkshire Record,* the *Berkshire Eagle,* and the *Springfield Union.* The title of the position will be changed from Highway Superintendent to Director of Roads, Property and Building Maintenance, and the position will become more administrative.

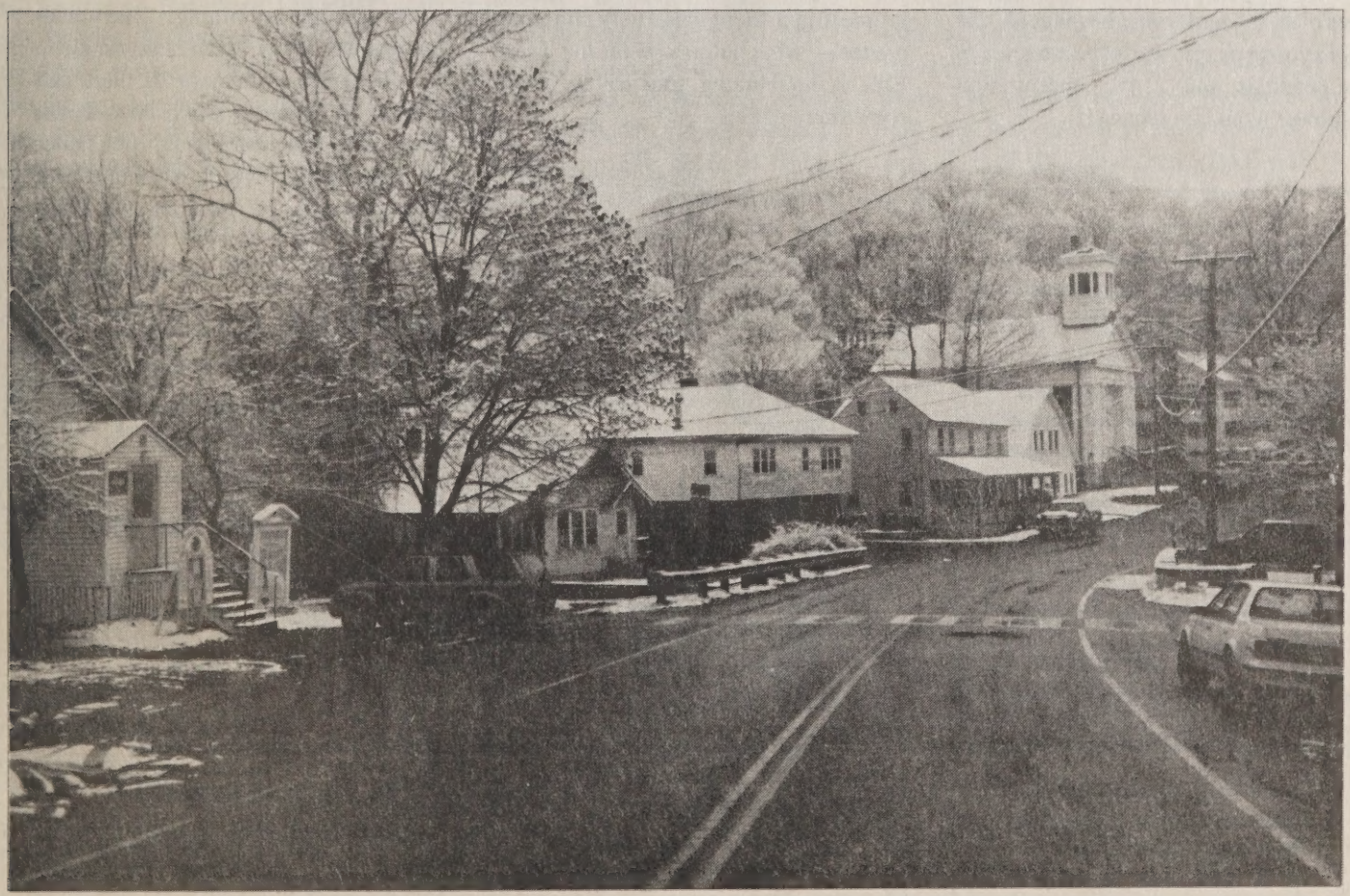
Town Reports

If any town committees have not yet submitted their town reports, they are asked to please do so at their earliest convenience. The reports for 1998–99 were due by the end of November, and the 1999–2000 reports were due by the end of December.

Skating Rink

The skating rink is now open, temperature permitting, subject to the following schedule:

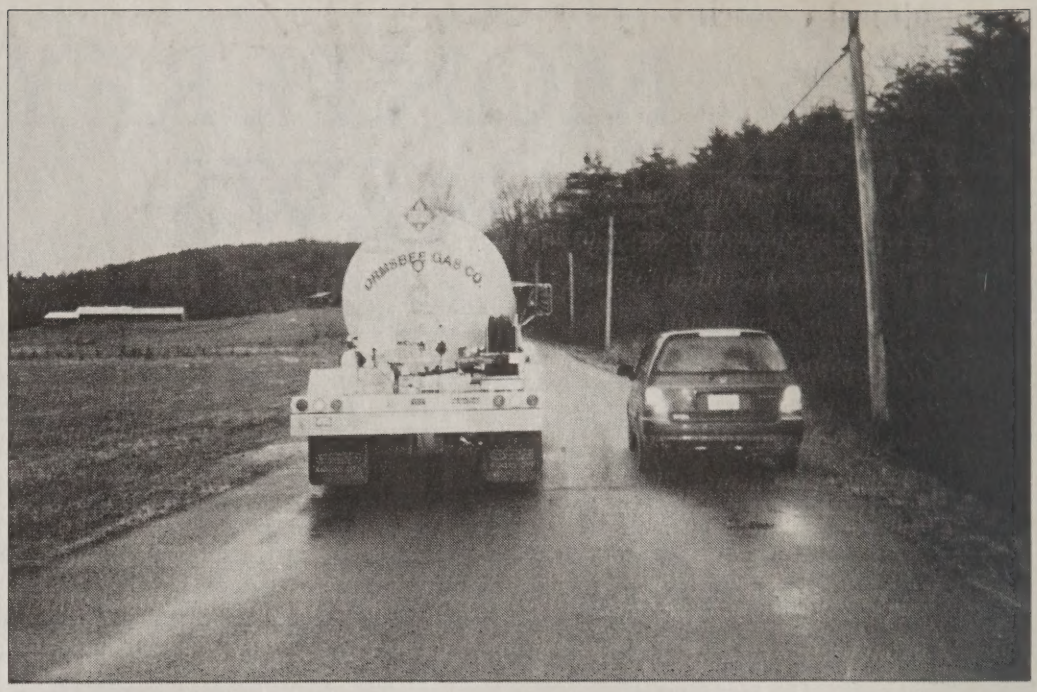
Monday through Friday
8 a.m.–3 p.m.: public skating
3 p.m.–5 p.m.: public skating/ kids' hockey
Tuesday and Friday
7 p.m.: men's hockey



Glynis Oliver

The shopping district in December

Saturday
8 a.m.–12 noon:
kids' hockey
12 noon–3 p.m.:
public skating
3 p.m.–5 p.m.: hockey
5 p.m.–7 p.m.:
ice-making
7 p.m.– 9 p.m.:
family skating
Sunday
9 a.m.–12 noon:
men's hockey
12 noon–3 p.m.:
public skating
3 p.m.–5 p.m.:hockey.
The schedule is posted at the rink and at Town Hall.



Glynis Oliver

Traffic snarl on New Marlborough Road

Board of Health

A petition for an article to be placed on the warrant for the May Town Meeting separating the Board of Health from the Selectboard is being contemplated. The thinking is: (1) if the boards were separate the responsibilities of board members of each board would be reduced, and more young people would be attracted to the positions; and (2) the concentration of power would be reduced.

Town Hall Renovation

With an anticipated spring completion date for the Town Hall handicap barrier removal project now underway, it is time to give thought to a very important matter — what color to paint the Town Hall. A nonbinding vote will be taken sometime in April.

— Suzanne Hoppenstedt

Skating Party on Jan. 20

The Monterey Park Commission announces that the Ice Skating Rink is OPEN (weather permitting!). The schedule, is given in the Town news article.

On Saturday, January 20, there will be a Family Skating Party from 4–8 p.m. Music will be provided by DJ Nick Diller and refreshments will be available. Call Rick Andrus for information, 528-1723.

Peter S. Vallianos
Attorney at Law
528-0055

General practice includes real estate purchases, sales, family transfers and transfers in trust, zoning, land use matters, conservation restrictions, landlord-tenant; wills, probate; commercial law.

***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

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Monterey Cultural Council

The Monterey Cultural Council is happy to announce the 2001 Cultural Council grant recipients.

The Monterey Cultural Council is a group of interested residents whose purpose is to support community-based projects and activities in the arts, humanities and interpretive sciences to benefit the residents of Monterey. We are appointed by the Selectboard to dispense public funding allocated by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. We are responsible for informing the public about the availability of public funding for cultural projects and for reviewing and approving applications. The budget of the MCC is determined annually by the state legislature.

Any Massachusetts-based individual, artist, non-profit community group, cultural institution or school with a cultural project that has a public benefit component may apply.

This year's grant recipients are: Hancock Shaker Village, Berkshire Museum, Southern Berkshire Regional School District, Shakespeare and Co., Flying Cloud Institute, Henry Lappen, Moonlight and Morningstar, Monterey Library, John Root, Sculpture Now, Bob Thomas, and Nicholas Wayne Lovich.

— Al Goldfarb, Chairperson
Monterey Cultural Council

Glynis Oliver

Bidwell Park Road behind the post office

Katherine Vallianos: DAR Good Citizen

Mount Everett Regional School senior, Kate Vallianos, has been named the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award.

Kate, the daughter of Peter and Evelyn Vallianos of Bidwell Road, Monterey, is President of the senior class, Vice-President of The National Honor Society and Secretary of Students Against Driving Drunk (SADD). She has also received a letter of commendation from the National Merit Scholarship Program and is Vice-President of Rotary Interact. She received the Williams College Books Award in her junior year. In addition, Kate participated in the World Affairs Seminar at the University of Wisconsin–Whitewater this past June.

Kate has been involved in school musical productions in addition to her participation in the Fall Festival of Shakespeare. She is also a member of the Madrigals and Retro choral groups. And she is a member of the soccer, basketball and softball teams.

The DAR award is sponsored locally by the First Resistance Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Both students and staff at the high school are involved in making the selection. The award is given to a senior student who demonstrates outstanding character and exhibits the qualities of good citizenship. Leadership, patriotism, dependability, and service are also considered in making the selection.

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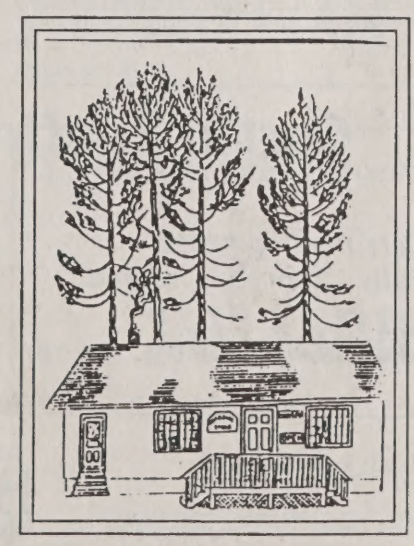

MONTEREY
A LOCAL HISTORY

Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

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Gould Farm Board of Directors Elects Officers

At its recent annual meeting the board of directors of Gould Farm elected Claudette Callahan of New Marlborough as president, Martin Cherneff of Monterey as vice president, Kathleen Wasiuk of Northfield as clerk, and H. Gilman Nichols of Essex as treasurer. In addition, Jaime Campbell of Watertown, Ursula Cliff of South Egremont, and Neil Ellenoff and Stanley Ross, both of Monterey, were elected to the board.

Mrs. Callahan, a graduate of St. Joseph's College (MA) in Hartford, Connecticut, is coordinator of the Family Support Network at the Children's Health Program in Great Barrington. She has served as vice president of the Farm's board for four of the last five years and has been active on the Building Plans Committee, the Capital Campaign Executive Committee, the Nominating Committee, and the Dinner Dance Committee. Ms. Callahan is active in church and civic endeavors in Berkshire County and is chairman of the New Marlborough Town Library Trustees.

Mr. Cherneff is principal and founder of Monterey-based M. H. Cherneff & Associates, a management consulting firm specializing in high volume foodservice programs and executive/customer dining in the business environment. A graduate of the University of Denver (BSBA), he has lectured on foodservice at the American Dietetic Association, the American Society of Hospital Foodservice Administrators, and the Society for Foodservice Management, where he served on the board. Mr. Cherneff has served as clerk of the Farm's board and has chaired the Nominating Committee. He has participated on the Human Resources Committee, the Capital Campaign Executive Committee, and the 2013 Committee. Cherneff has held leadership positions with the Lake Garfield Association and the Hupi Woods Association. He is a member of Trout Unlimited and the Fly Fishing Federation.

Ms. Wasiuk is Executive Assistant to the Head of School at Northfield Mount Hermon School, where she has held several positions since 1988. A graduate of the University of Arizona (BA) and Dartmouth College (MA), Ms. Wasiuk was an English language editor and freelance writer in Cairo, Egypt, from 1986–87. Prior to that she was on the history faculty at Tilton School (New Hampshire), where she also served as Director of Communications. Ms. Wasiuk chaired the Gould Farm Human Resources Committee and the Monterey Meetinghouse Capital Campaign and is President of the Elephant Rock Association, also in Monterey.

Mr. Nichols is retired President and CEO of the Fiduciary Trust Company in Boston. A Harvard University graduate (BA), he is also treasurer and member of the board of the Perkins School for the Blind (Watertown, Mass.). He serves on the Farm's Finance Committee and the Boston Area Program Committee.

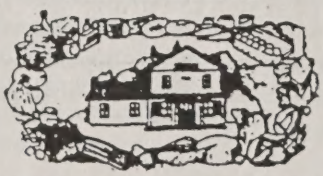
Ms. Campbell attended the University of New Mexico where she majored in Mathematics and Interpersonal Communications. She has worked for Gould Farm in the Boston Area Program for over a year and serves on the Farm's Guest and Community Support Committee.

Mrs. Cliff is a graduate of Vassar College (BA) and Yale University (MA). A freelance writer and editor, she was associate editor of Industrial Design and Urban Design publications. Mrs. Cliff is a past president of the Children's Health Program in Great Barrington and is currently on the board of the Egremont Conservation Commission and president of the Egremont Land Trust. She serves on the Farm's Development Committee.

Mr. Ellenoff is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania (BA in Economics) and holds a law degree from Columbia University in NY. A part-time resident of Monterey, he is a retired certified public accountant. He serves on the Development and Finance Committees at Gould Farm and is a board member of the Free Clinic of Doylestown (Pennsylvania) Hospital, the Michener Museum in Doylestown, and the Broward County (Florida) Library Foundation.

Mr. Ross, retired senior partner of a Long Island, New York, accounting firm, has lived in Monterey full-time since 1998. He holds a BA from Syracuse University and an MBA in Accounting and Finance from New York University. He is an elected member of the Town Finance Committee and serves on various appointed town committees.

MONTEREY



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"We are fortunate to have this talented and enthusiastic group of new directors at the Farm as we complete the first part of our vocational training program expansion plan and move on to the next. We look forward as well to improving other facilities as we pursue some rather aggressive goals between now and our centennial in 2013. I am very pleased to be working with all of our board members and staff on these efforts," commented Brian Snyder, executive director of the Farm.

Gould Farm operates a residential treatment program for adults with mental illness on a six-hundred-acre farm. It provides an environment where clients learn to manage the symptoms of their illnesses while living and working with staff to form and sustain a meaningful community and to develop skills they can take with them when they leave the program. The Farm produces and sells maple syrup, mint tea, salad dressing, and other value-added products, including a line of Adirondack chairs, from its Roadside Store and Café on Route 23 in Monterey.

— Rita Kasky

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Suzanne O'Connell Named Outstanding Educator

Dr. Suzanne O'Connell, Associate Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut, is the recipient of the Association for Women Geoscientists (AWG) Foundation Outstanding Educator Award for 2000. The award was presented at the annual AWG breakfast on Tuesday, November 14, 2000, during the Geological Society of America convention in Reno, Neveda. Dr. O'Connell is the daughter of Georgiana O'Connell of Curtis Road and grew up in Monterey.

At Wesleyan University, one of the top liberal arts colleges in the country, Dr. O'Connell shares her passion for geosciences with her students by using innovative classroom techniques and exposing them to research. She has touched many lives with her enthusiasm and personal mentoring and has served as an outstanding role model for women in science throughout her already distinguished career.

An accomplished sedimentologist specializing in deep sea sedimentation, Dr. O'Connell has authored or coauthored over sixty refereed publications and edited the JOIDES Journal, as well as Ocean Drilling Project Initial Reports and Scientific Results. Her twenty-plus years of oceanographic experience include several Deep Sea Drilling Project/Ocean Drilling Program cruises where she served as a staff scientist and the ODP staff representative.

Recently, Wesleyan University generously granted Dr. O'Connell a two-year leave of absence to pursue a slightly different path: giving something back to her community as Director of the new Center for Interdisciplinary Science at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. At the center, she will develop an Environmental Science Program, interdisciplinary facilities such as a field station, and additional community outreach initiatives.

Suzanne O'Connell worked her way through Oberlin College, obtaining undergraduate degrees in biology and geology. She earned her Master's degree in geology from the State University of New York at Albany with a thesis that required field work in the ophiolite belt of soggy Newfoundland.

In 1986, she completed her Ph.D. at Columbia University on modern submarine depositional and distributary systems. Her doctoral dissertation work on the Valencia Valley and Deep Sea Fan in the northwestern Mediterranean attracted notable attention, particularly from those who believe that this may have been the conduit through which the Mediterranean was refilled after it dried up during the late Miocene.

The O'Connell family moved to Monterey in 1961. Suzanne, the oldest of six daughters, attended New Marlborough School and graduated from Mt. Everett Regional High School in 1969. Dr. O'Connell is married to Thomas Christopher, a freelance writer who currently writes about gardens for Martha Stewart. They live in Middltown with their son Matthew, age ten, who is learning to play the bagpipes with his mom.

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

On car trips when I was growing up, my family played word games.

"Church" comes from the Middle English *chirche,* and from the Old English *cirice,* which came from the Goth *kyriko,* and goes back all the way back to the Greek *kyriakon,* which apparently was short for *kyriakon doma,* or "God's house." (I wish I knew how to pronounce all these ancient, mysterious words.)

Words have power. We use them to think, to communicate, to build relationships, to understand our world. We can use them to unmask or to manipulate. "God's house" could mean that if you wanted to seek the Beyond, attune to your Higher Self, be close to the Spirit, or meditate, you would *only* be able to do so in God's House, because, conceivably, that is where God lives (I mean, duh). Of course, we know this isn't true.

Language is as slippery as it is powerful. *Kyriakon* takes us back to *kyrios,* which means "lord," and *kyros* for "power." Starts to make the word "church" seem like an authority word, doesn't it? (By the way: "lord" comes from the Old English for "breadkeeper," and "power" from the Old French "to be able." (That's a whole other column.) But *kyros* can be traced back even further to the Latin *cavus,* which means "hollow." So, maybe I'm just playing games here, but I believe "God's house" is just that: something hollow, something open, a place that doesn't belong to any human being. It is a space that welcomes all of us and the spirit or *ruah* (in Hebrew) — the holy breath — in each of us, no matter what our tradition is or is not.

This month the congregation would like to try an experiment. The doors of the church, at the front and the back ramp, will be unlocked every day during daylight hours. Come in, see the new pew cushions, use the toilet, play the piano, pray or meditate, if you like, and tell us what you think in the guest log. If all goes well, we hope this is something that will continue.

Another heads up — there will be a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Celebration for South County on January 14 at 2 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church (across from Brooks Pharmacy on Main Street) in Great Barrington. There will be a gospel choir, taped excerpts of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, and leaders who are Quaker, Jewish, Christian, Bahai . . . The theme is "Unity," so come one, come all!

— Heidi Haverkamp, Pastor

Rep Rap

Well, it's that time of year again. By the time you read this I will have been sworn in for my tenth term as the state representative for the Fourth Berkshire District. The legislative season will begin again and committee hearings on bills filed will commence in February. This session I am the chief sponsor of twenty bills and the cosponsor of approximately fifty bills dealing with the environment, education, health care, community development and consumer issues, among other matters.

One of my priorities this session is to help enact meaningful health care reform. I have filed a bill requiring continued medical treatment of certain patients. The bill would mandate that physicians in contract with health maintenance organizations continue to provide treatment to people diagnosed with cancer if that person is already in the treatment stage, regardless of the financial difficulties of the doctor, HMO, even during a time of negotiations between the parties.

I was motivated to write and file the legislation due to the situation at Berkshire Hematology Oncology group, where three of the county's four cancer specialists are affiliated. Financial squabbles between the group and Health New England, the county's second largest HMO

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Senator Says

Legislators have been busy this month filing bills for the upcoming legislative session. A number of important issues will return for legislative consideration, including:

- Telecommunications Tower Siting
- Low Speed/Low Volume Bridge Standards
- Establishing Old Growth Forest Reserves
- Weed Control in Lakes and Ponds

Here are some selected new bills I am sponsoring during the 2001-2002 session, with emphasis on matters of interest to small towns:

Local Road Fund

I am the lead Senate sponsor of a bill filed by Rep. Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) to establish a local road fund to replace the unpredictable Chapter 90 funding process. A number of local officials, frustrated with the cut in the Chapter 90 fund in recent years, asked Rep. Kulik and me to work toward a more reliable, dedicated fund to provide support for local road and bridge needs. Our proposal would forward a portion of the state gas tax to the fund, which would be distributed quarterly to cities and towns.

Landfill Capping Grants

In conjunction with the Massachusetts Municipal Association, I am sponsoring a bill that will direct the Department of Environmental Protection to provide for a landfill capping grant program. Many municipalities are undertaking capping projects to comply with federal clean water standards. In the past, the State Revolving Fund has provided loan assistance to a handful of communities where a public water supply faced an imminent threat of contamination from an uncapped landfill. The proposed program would expand state assistance to more cities and towns, and help defray a cost that can be as high as $3 million per community.

Restore 0% Interest for Water and Sewer Program

I have cosponsored a bill that would restore the 0% interest rate for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF). The Fiscal Year 2001 budget contained language requiring a 2% interest rate for municipal sewer and water loans beginning in July 2001. I share the concern of the Massachusetts Clean Water Council that the 2% interest rate will be a barrier to cities and towns weighing the demands of various local capital needs.

A second aspect of this bill directs the State Treasurer to leverage state and federal funds in the SRF on a 3:1 basis instead of the present 2:1 ratio. Each SRF receives many more applications than it can support in a given year. Adopting 3:1 leveraging would allow the SRF to provide funds for dozens of additional water and sewer projects.

Lower Acreage for School Buildings

I have also supported a bill that will remove the minimum lot size requirement for school building projects. Currently, school projects on less than four acres do not qualify for state reimbursement through the school building assistance program. This proposal will give local residents and officials more flexibility and control in identifying appropriate sites for school buildings.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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provider, have resulted in the doctors deciding not to treat Health New England patients as of January 16, 2001. Both sides have agreed to sit down at the bargaining table to see if they can resolve their problems. However if the doctors ultimately decide not to treat the insurer's patients then they will have to seek care elsewhere. The only other cancer specialist in Health New England's network is located in Williamstown, a great distance for a lot of us in South County.

While the doctors and the HMO try to hammer out their differences, patients are frightened by a potential and looming interruption of care. No one suffering from cancer and in the middle of a treatment plan should be left in the lurch. Patients should not be used as a budgetary wedge at a vulnerable time in their life. Nor should patients have to choose a new doctor in mid-treatment. I am hopeful that this bill will draw public awareness to the issue that health care needs to focus on the patient care, not profit margins and the bottom line.

Best wishes as we begin the New Year, and as always please feel free to contact my full-time district office with any questions or concerns at 243-0289.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins

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Monterey Fire & Rescue Craft

One basic rule in fighting a fire is that the first two minutes after an alarm is sounded are often the most critical period for a successful performance of duty. This axiom applies equally well to expeditious rescue efforts for victims in trouble on the water, and no less for resuscitation of victims brought up from below the surface. When the wheels of rescue vehicles are set into motion following a 911 call, the chances of survival have already begun to go down, and the seconds tick off as if measured by the hand of a stopwatch. Still, with drownings, modern emergency medical treatment has established a new optimistic window of hope called a "golden hour," within which a would-be fatality can be reversed. The biological clock seems to favor younger victims who were previously in good health, as well as those rescued from colder water. A few revivals after two hours are on record.

The fact that Monterey's geographical boundaries include shorelines of three lakes, Garfield, Buell, and Stevens, might make it logical that our Fire Department would be the first in Berkshire County to purchase an aerial propeller reverse thrust flat rescue craft. Similar to those used in the Florida Everglades at first look, this boat, manufactured by the RiverCraft Company, is aluminum with watertight panels and compartments filled with floating foam, so as to be like the "unsinkable Molly Brown." After launching, with speeds up to forty m.p.h., it can carry surface or diver rescue specialists to the site of a crisis, over water or ice, in a matter of minutes, and then back again to a waiting ambulance. According to Mort Cavanaugh, retired Fire Chief from the Great Barrington force, it is not surprising that Monterey is showing other Fire Departments the way in this endeavor, because as long as he can remember, Monterey has been among the leaders in getting and maintaining state-of-the-art equipment.

Lake Garfield is a mecca of recreational activities during the summer months, when it shines as the Golden Pond of the Southern Berkshires, and this is justification enough for having the rescue craft. Yet even after the winter drawdown, the lake still attracts ice fishermen, skaters, snowmobiles, and naturalists. Shifting ice conditions and thinner ice over warm springs can produce hazards for the careless or unsuspecting. On December 26, 1998, George Bachon of Springfield, seventy-three years old, fell through the ice while ice fishing, near a place where he had been rescued eight years before, indicating that some places are more dangerous than others. His plight was unseen by his companion, so that rescue action was delayed. Almost one-half hour later in the ambulance, there was a faint glimmer of a pulse, but because he had possibly experienced a heart attack, he did not survive.

In January 1999, the new Monterey rescue craft was briefly activated in a heroic effort to locate the body of Shirley Palmer, lost for many days after falling into the Housatonic River in Great Barrington. The craft was untested as an ice breaker at that time, and a few feet from where the body was ultimately located, the craft had to be recalled under impossible conditions for the safety of the operators. However Monterey Fire Department divers Keith Ives and Lanny Lanoue both took their turns in a dramatic relay display of volunteer divers that persisted to bring closure of tragic circumstances. Since then, a more powerful motor has replaced the original one, a cost absorbed by the Monterey Fire Department.

Qualified divers must become certified after extensive training, and it follows that centers for diving acumen are often companies that develop and sell related equipment. Much of the latest technology has been enhanced in the age of computers. The state of readiness and actual usage are electronically monitored, so that a diver knows when he is ready to go down that gages will constantly update him during the dive on his depth, distance to the bottom, and time of oxygen remaining.

Our Fire Department continues to ride the wave of breaking new technological developments. The latest is a camera-like device that instantaneously renders an image that gives it the name of a heat-seeking thermal indicator. Without opening up a section of a building, it indicates exactly where the fire is. Such a

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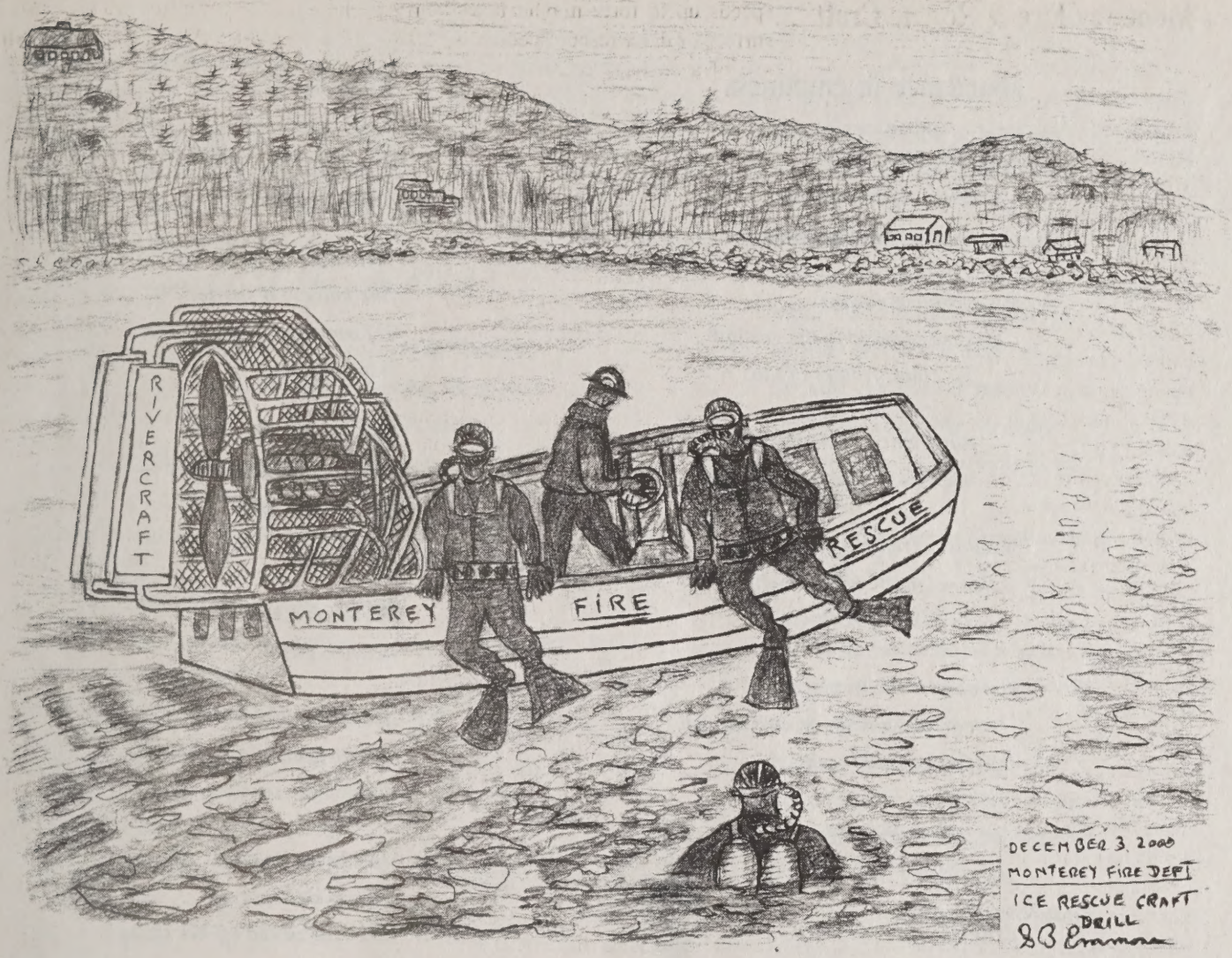

device might have saved lives in last year's Worcester warehouse fire. It may be that it could be used to locate bodies in dark water, at night, or under layers of thick ice. This is still hypothetical, because body heat dissipates quickly after one becomes unconscious. If the Town decided to purchase one, most of the cost would be covered by a state grant to encourage its use and operational development. Meanwhile the rescue craft stands ready for almost any related emergency that might arise in this day and age, and Monterey will be ahead of others in the future, should new technology provide additional usefulness.

On the bitter cold Sunday afternoon of December 3, I witnessed an ice rescue drill with the craft on the windblown shores of Lake Garfield. When many others would be content to watch somebody else take risks by watching the N.F.L. on television in the comfort of their homes, time and again some of our best young men took turns repeating the ice rescue drill. Near the end, Leigh Tryon and I looked up to see a bald eagle soaring overhead, perhaps a symbol of volunteer vigilance in which we can all take pride, particularly when it happens in Monterey.

— George Emmons

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abundance in emptiness

under the high clamor
of geese returning, the
silence and scent remain

this season of sowing
has me scratching the ground
for clues, riddles of tao:

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emptiness in abundance

shoulder screaming under
the weight of will and why
so many seeds like dice

just outside the window
some God thrown or bird thrown
flash familiar poppy!

abundance in emptiness
emptiness in abundance

delightful odd presence
red flower or red bird —
"Fox, don't get your tail wet!"

— R. Zukowsk

First Love

She had never looked so
real; an apparition.

Her hair was unteased.
She had cut it shorter.
It formed around her face,
her black hair.

Her olive cheeks
were tear soaked.
Her brown eyes,
shiny.

How can a boy
leave a girl?

Her dress was white,
a high border,
crossed.

Her knees touched.
Her ankles splayed.
She had kicked off her shoes.
She sat on the edge of the bed,
inhaling hard.

I was torn, that evening,
to Portuguese shreds.

— Peter Shepley

The Universe Can Kill You

(for my dog Max)

When you died I prayed for a sign.
I'd heard strange stories of birds
flying unnaturally.
So I prayed and begged you
to show me a sign that
you were still somewhere.
I stared out my window onto
a winter landscape.
Saw pine trees swaying in the wind
and snow melting off the roof
in silver drops, in the sun.
On the radio, a piano
in a high key.

— Peter Shepley

Archimedes

What is the fulcrum of the soul,
the lever of our reasoning?
What are the limits of our loss?
and how find dross
concealed within the golds of love?

What are the turnings of the heart
which with a twisting lift of pain
spiral up our wisdom yet again
from inner depths, neatly to wind
and spill our resignations
upon the surface of our mind?

How does one focus sorrow
to burn into the sails
of our desires
and so scatter tomorrow's fleets
of love and longing
which would assault the dire
beaches of our being
and break down all the walls of prudence?

Oh, Archimedes, in the wonders
of your thought
did you ever turn to probe
if failure's explanations might be sought
through the obstructed channels of our needs
or in the futile sad propulsions
of our misdirected deeds?

When death's malignant spear
found you crouched over sand
while concentrating without fear
on your designs for man,
perhaps you had just turned
your lucid eye along his span -
or upon those principles of
passion
laid across proportions of
the soul
which might engender
some individuated whole.
Or upon those analogies whereby
the broken-witted mortal
reason's pantograph might try
and point with greater point ally,
and so delineate himself anew
that spirit fully-patterned
could with divine intelligence
construe
some penultimate significance
to what we dream and do.

— A. O. Howell

Winter Poet

It's ten degrees today, and all around
our house light snow. The only sounds I hear
are creaking walls and barely crackling fire.
Is there a muse such chill would not confound?
In solitude I sit, I think, I pace;
of ideas for a poem there's not a trace.

I look outside where tall trees sway, and hope
that they, or else some hardy chirping birds,
may in some way suggest the sounds, and words
I need, a sprightly rhythm I can reap.
I'll take whatever inspiration I can glean
from any part of winter's sombre scene.

Yet, what's outside, at best, can get me started;
Without a deeper reach, the poem's half-hearted.

— Edwin Schur

Staghorn Sumac: Winter Tonic

January finds us deep in the brittle cold of winter. We worry about the birds and load up our feeders with imported sunflower seeds and such. Here at our house we can count on hordes of mourning doves and juncos, and good representation from the titmice, chickadees, nuthatches, and goldfinches. Bluejays come and electrify our blue tones, and we get about two kinds of woodpeckers on the suet. After twenty-five years of birdfeeding here in the winters, these are the visitors we have come to expect, especially just before or during a snowstorm or a cold snap. This year many a birdfeeding resident of Monterey has asked her friends and neighbors, "Where are the birds this year?" There is a note of panic, of mourning. We are all so convinced of our inexorable path to ecological doom that when the little flying angels fail to show up for seeds we fear that the Silent Winter is finally upon us, Rachel Carson's warnings come true. We wonder if the far-off breeding grounds of our winter buddies have disappeared beneath the sea thanks to global warming and ice-cap melting. We wonder if the military aid to Colombia with its heavy spraying of pesticides from the air has done in the birds of our winter backyards.

I would like to say that we are not melting the ice caps or building another Vietnam in Colombia, but I'm not sure about these things. One thing I do know is that the birds are here. Maybe there are not quite as many as there were last year, or ten years ago. Maybe there are more. You have to go to the Project Feederwatch website to find out someone's conclusions about trends like these. But if you want to know about the birds this winter, you have to look around Monterey, beyond the feeder. Drive along Route 23 toward Great Barrington and pay attention to the tops of the conifers. This year they are so loaded with cones that they look brown, almost sickly. You could add to your eco-panic, but don't. Stop the car, take a good look, and you'll see that this has been a bumper year for pine nuts. Birds love these and will hop about in the tops of the pines twitching out local organic food supplies all day before they will choose to visit your birdfeeder instead.

Female staghorn sumac, in winter

Yet another good source of birdfood other than your birdfeeder is the staghorn sumac. Along the highway or meadow edges, look especially on the north sides of clearings where there is good sun from the south. Here the female sumacs are decorated with rich red fruits and the birds will be gobbling them down all winter.

Some people have been worried about the sumacs (we were born to worry) because many are bare and twiggy at the tops with no fruits. Do not be concerned. These are the male sumac bushes and they always look like that. In the spring they will have

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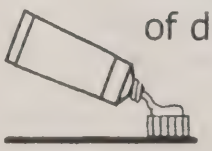

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the tall sparse blossoms which put out the pollen necessary to fertilize the smaller, more compact flowers on the female plants. But when summer is over and the female plants are building up their red fruit clusters, the male blossoms will be gone, leaving only a slightly curled slender twig. It is pretty, but you can't eat it. The fruit clusters on the females consist of many small "drupes" with red, glandular, acid-containing hairs. If you pick a few and put them on your tongue, little tart starbursts will fire off in your mouth, triggering an instant production of saliva. Your mouth will fill up with "lemonade" on the spot. Swallow the drink and spit out the hairy seeds when the flavor is gone. This beverage is said to be rich in vitamin C, and you can brew it if you like, using hot water. Drink it right away, though, because it does not keep well.

Glynis Oliver

Staghorn sumac has many fine qualities, including its usefulness as a pipestem or a maple sap spile. The wood has a soft pithy center which is easily reamed out. I used to do it when I was a kid playing at smoking a peacepipe, and we have some old maple spiles about four inches long with one end tapered to tap into a running saphole in the spring.

The sumacs with a southern exposure are especially bright in the fall, one of our best reds here in New England. Then they droop their leaves at the first frost and soon stand bare, topped with fuzzy red bunches of fruit if they are female. When the first male robins come back in March and get hit by a late snowstorm, they will add the orange of their manly chests to the red tops of the female sumacs as they take a little tonic. They do not worry about global warming or population fluctuations. They take life one red drupe at a time, which is why it is so important for us to watch them: not to worry about them, but to learn from them.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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Monterey: A Place in Time
Part 3

This is the third installment of Michele Miller's cultural geographical history of Monterey. Part 2, printed in last month's issue, discussed the development of the town until 1800.

During the first half of the nineteenth century, a way of life took hold. The descendents of the original settlers, Brewers, Bidwells, Townsends, and Langdons, continued to lead the community, economically and spiritually. While they debated Tom Paine's ideas of the separation of church and state, the church continued to serve as a node. The struggles of the ministers, the comings and goings of the congregation, and religious revivals and rivalries are well documented.

By the mid-1800s, it became clear that Tyringham was a town in name only. Lengthy negotiations produced a division of property, and in 1847 Bangall incorporated as Monterey, in honor of a historic battle in Mexico. A new church was built at the intersection of what is now Route 23 and Tyringham Road. Across the street were the general store, post office, paper mill, carding mill, comb factory, slaughterhouse, sawmills, and grist mills. Irish immigrants escaping the famine and black families escaping the South, as well as a new influx of settlers, made for a vital town. There were new names: Tryon, Miner, Hadsell. There were nine schools spread throughout the town, serving 150 "scholars," and two hotels. Monterey was known as one of the largest producers of cheese and had a thriving fur trade. Although beaver were nearly extinct by the 1800s, fox, muskrat, and raccoon were abundant. The demand for stoves and the production of iron in the region caused the "coaling off" of the forest for charcoal production, leaving large areas of open land. Itinerant French-Canadian charcoal makers came for as long as the lumber held out, and sheep were turned out to graze in the rough hills.

Napoleon's victory over Portugal in 1809 made possible the importing of Merino sheep and was the start of a thriving though short-lived wool industry. Coaling off and overgrazing denuded the hills and eventually caused such severe erosion and flooding that people began to abandon New England hill farms in droves. The effect of this came somewhat later to Monterey, and signalled the beginning of the larger dairy farms in the lowlands. Herds of fifty to one hundred cows were uncommon until after the Civil War. At this time, 75 percent of the land was still in agricultural use. In 1972, 80 percent was recorded as having reverted to woodland.

In 1860, the Civil War began and marks the beginning of a long, slow decline. The town contributed men to the effort and endured the economic depression which followed the war. Women's suffrage and temperance leagues were springing up, and in 1869, Monterey became a "dry" town. The opening up of the West, the railroad, and increasingly mechanized industry, all took their toll on self-sufficient Monterey. Wilbur Langdon, owner of the General Store and a respected member of the community, was forced to declare bankruptcy over uncollected debts in 1874. The store was a sort of bank, extending credit to those in the town. While dairying and farming continued, manufacturing disappeared. What came in its place oddly enough, was tourism.

It was a new pastor, John Dooly, retired here from New York, who is said to have attracted his friends to the area. Suddenly it seemed the landscape had a value not for what it could produce and sustain, but as an escape from the centers of production. As capital, industry, and population drifted away from Monterey, they left a void which is still being filled today. In 1920 the population was at its lowest point in 250 years, with fewer than 300 year-round residents and not even 50 students attending only Corashire and Center School.

Divisions of land around the lakes began in earnest, as large family holdings of the Dowds, Brewers, and Bidwells

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were sold. Owners took steps to buy back the water rights from a power company in Connecticut and guarantee their lakeshore. In 1934, there were 90 cottages on the lake. The lake had been renamed Garfield in honor of the slain president, who had summered there as a boy. Monterey was again responding to events beyond its borders. Guesthouses and camps overflowed with visitors. Berkshire Summer School of Art, which operated from 1915 to 1936, brought many interesting people to the region. It was a new Golden Age for Monterey. People arrived by train in Great Barrington and were ferried up into the hills by car, a three-hour trip. Some new names, Abercrombie, Ward, Fenn, Wolfer, Ensign, Wilson, and McLaughlin, became familiar as the old disappeared. The Tryon family, which first appeared in the mid-1800s as blacksmiths and hotel owners, continued to mirror the life of the town. The descendants of one branch continued to farm, while another became instrumental in transport and construction. This pattern continues today as the farming branch promotes land preservation and the other is involved with the ongoing development of land.

Glynis Oliver

Barbara Tryon checks the view of Rawson Brook from New Marlborough Road bridge.

The church continued as a strong presence, due in part to the opportunity it offered to women to play an active role in community and to a series of inspiring and dedicated ministers, who were deeply involved in the workings of the town.

The early 1900s were also a time when Monterey reflected larger issues of the time. Jews were routinely excluded from the summer population. A cross burning shocked town residents in 1926. Two world wars and the depression between them affected many in town.

In 1930, Wallace Tryon became the town's first fire chief; his sisters Nina and Della had a new Tearoom built to accommodate overflow summer crowds, and a bequest from their aunt made possible the building of a new library, the Monterey Free Library. The look of the town center had changed. Cars parked in front of the General Store and could fill up with gas across the street or at Parker Harmon's filling station up the hill at the site formerly occupied by the Berkshire Hills Co-operative Creamery. The only remaining black families in town, the Clarkes and Persips, were gone by the end of World War II. The only Native Americans were probably Cherokees from Oklahoma, schooled in Virginia and introduced to Monterey as summer workers by the Townsend sisters, teachers who were descendants of one of the early settlers.

Population was increasing steadily and with it came new ideas and problems to solve. The drive to consolidate, to organize, to be modern was felt in many

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areas of town life. In 1951, the town joined with other small towns to form a regional school district, and by 1954 all but the youngest students were removed from the town each morning to Sheffield. In 1957 a Planning Board was proposed to formulate some order for the future of land use in town, although it took several attempts and the threat of intense development around the lake to make it law. The new young families were active, and joined with younger local families to institute Little League and swimming lessons, creating Greene Park in the center of town and the town beach at Lake Garfield. Eleven summer camps and a French restaurant added to the scene in that postwar period.

Through the 1960s, the town continued to grow, though there was a different feeling in town. The Tearoom closed and in 1961 the Miners, who had run the Langdon General Store since 1906, sold to Charles Slater of Tyringham. The store fell on hard times, due to indifferent management and the easy access to Great Barrington. In 1962 Monterey voted to end its prohibition against the sale of liquor. That same year a bizarre attempt to abolish the Planning Board was made through an act of the State Legislature, but the town rallied to save it. The Zoning Bylaw was passed in 1966. In 1968, the State Highway Department decided to build a bypass through some of Monterey's most beautiful and fragile land. The townspeople united to oppose this plan. Once again it was the oldest names in town working with the newest who succeeded in stopping the project, which the state officially abandoned in 1973.

All through the 1960s and '70s, the Monterey Fire Company grew in membership and professionalism, culminating in its incorporation as a non-profit entity in 1980. In 1975, a homegrown event known as the Gravity Car Race featured homemade wheeled vehicles careening down an abandoned road at reckless speeds. An organic food co-op, the Fire Company Steak Roast, a monthly paper sponsored by the women of the church, and a women's group were other features of the social landscape during those years. The Monterey Energy Project formed in response to the events at Three Mile Island. Its activities culminated in a grant to build an energy efficient firehouse and a three-day event, "Monterey Lights the Way," which received attention throughout the country.

In 1981, the General Store was saved from extinction when it was purchased by Lewis Scheffey, who first came to the town as a boy during the summers. In many ways, town life was renewed and hopeful, but it was also during those years that, the last working dairy, Lowland Farm, sold off its herd.

While the population rises, the number of students is falling. More of the residents are older, retiring to the community they remember as campers. On Sunday mornings and throughout the summer, the General Store is packed. *The New York Times*, smoked salmon, bagels, croissants and baguettes, wine and an array of barbecue sauces are for sale, along with vegetables, basic cuts of meat and cheeses, sandwiches and snack food. Sport utility vehicles, Mercedes, and Volvos spill over into the Greene Park parking lot, where mostly city men skirmish over a basketball and a long-running softball game continues. Town government has moved from an upstairs office in the Center School to the Grange building; the Grange ceased to exist in 1998. Annual Town Meetings are held in the firehouse instead of the church basement. The Congregational Society, which for years provided the financial support of the church, disbanded in 1995, and yet as of this year the church has been completely restored. The 1995 tornado served to expose for many, how much closer we live to each other than we knew. (*To be continued.*)

— Michele Miller

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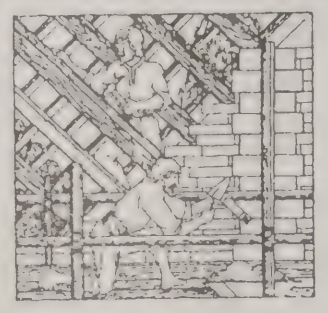

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The Thread of the Story

Gifts from Alice O. Howell, 2

"These belonged to my grandmother," Alice explained as she handed me what could have been a fabric jewel cache. Actually, it was a bag containing two antique embroidered silk kimonos.

"Everyone had them at that time, of course," she added, a little startled by my enthusiastic reception of the somewhat fragile robes. She didn't know I have a weakness for Chinese silk embroidery.

One kimono is gold in color, lined in a deep sunrise pink. The other is lapis blue, lined with silk the color of the ocean under an overcast sky. Both are covered with a garden of perennial silk flowers. The collar, cuffs and hems of each are detailed with embroidered silk ribbon, and each closes with a set of silk frogs.

The flowers on both robes are primarily done in the traditional Chinese manner, in satin stitch. To create blooms this delicate, only one strand of silk thread is used at a time.

Surrounded on each side by two flowers which are most likely roses, the central flower on each of the cuffs of the peach silk robe, probably a chrysanthemum, is chain stitched, though, and each petal is outlined with silver laidwork. (See illustration.)

Alice shrugged, as if to imply that, if only I would take them, she could use the space they'd been taking up in her household. What could I do but agree to help?

— MaryKate Jordan

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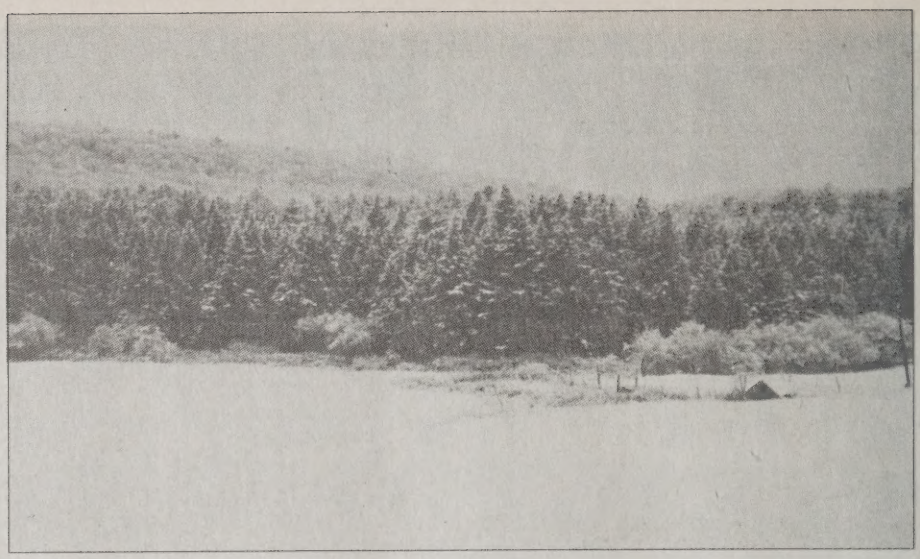
Personal Notes

Happy New Year to all. Birthday greetings to **Don Welsch** on the 3rd, **Barbara Tryon** on the 5th, **Evan Sylbert** on the 9th (his first), **Cindy Hebert** on the 10th, **Jim Deloy** on the 11th, **Julian Mendel** on the 13th and **Bridget Mendel** on the 15th, **Laura Anne Dinan** on the 22nd, and **Shelly Bynack** on the 26th.

Happy Anniversary to **Karl and Shirley Quisenberry** on New Year's Day, and **Don and Carol Welsch** on the 5th. Happy 25th Anniversary to **Rick and Debbie Mielke** on the 9th; and **Rod and Jeri Palmer** celebrate on the 23rd.

Congratulations to the following Monterey/Mt. Everett students making the honor roll in the first quarter. Grade 7 honors: **Trevor Cobb, Kristen Dempsey;** Grade 8 honors: **Gavin Hupp;** Grade 9 high honors: **Christina Vallianos;** Grade 9 honors: **Jessica Hupp, Adam Schoenfarber, Carly Thomas;** Grade 10 high honors: **Claire Mielke;** Grade 11 honors: **Alexandre Snow;** Grade 12 high honors: **Hannah Bracken, Kimberly Gero, Katherine Vallianos.**



Glynis Oliver

Congratulations to **Annabel Edelman** for qualifying for Talent Search 2001 sponsored by Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth.

Looking Back

1971: (The *Monterey News* first issue was March 1970 so our January flashback is from the 1971 issue.) The Ladies Aid held their December meeting at the home of Lucy Smith in the form of a Christmas party.

1980: The General Store has been sold once again. . . . It will open in early spring with a Bicentennial Celebration marking its 200th year of existence. It will be managed by one of its new owners, Linda Hoch, who with her husband, Bill, is moving to Monterey from Connecticut.

1990: Christmas came early for Natasha Grotz! Tasha was accepted Early Decision at Dartmouth College, her first choice, and she couldn't be happier.

— Deborah Mielke

ॐ

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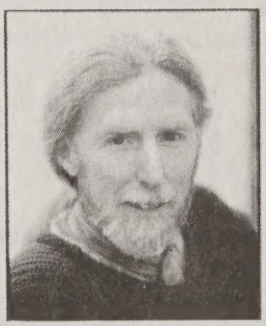

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Calendar

The skating rink is open, weather permitting. See schedule on pp. 1–2.

Every Thursday: People's Pantry, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m., St. Peter's Parish, 16 Russell St., Great Barrington. Free food for the needy.

Tuesday, January 9: Full Moon.

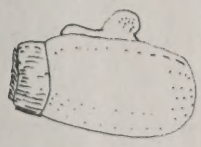
Friday, January 12: Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pick-up at Meetinghouse basement, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Monday, January 15: Town offices closed in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

Tuesday, January 16: Free blood pressure clinic, 9–10:30 a.m., basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Saturday, January 20: Family ice skating party, 4–8 p.m., ice rink in Firehouse pavillion. Music by DJ Nick Diller; refreshments available.

Saturday, January 27: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Jim Gregory. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $5, children $2. Information 413-528-9385.



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The Observer

November 26—December 25

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Low temp. (12/24)	0°
Avg. high temp.	34.2°
Avg. low temp.	16.6°
Avg. temp.	25.4°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	4.47"
Snowfall	10.5"

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(For comparison, for the same period in 1999 the average temperature was 33.5° and the snowfall was 1.8".)

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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the *News* by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-4347.

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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 9; Bonner McAllester, p. 12.

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